

## Official Title and Summary

Prepared by the Attorney General

### REDISTRICTING. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Amends process for redistricting California’s Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts.
- Requires panel of three retired judges, selected by legislative leaders, to adopt new redistricting plan if measure passes and after each national census.
- Panel must consider legislative, public comments/hold public hearings.
- Redistricting plan effective when adopted by panel and filed with Secretary of State; governs next statewide primary/general elections even if voters reject plan.
- If voters reject redistricting plan, process repeats, but officials elected under rejected plan serve full terms.
- Allows 45 days to seek judicial review of adopted redistricting plan.

### SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST’S ESTIMATE OF NET STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT:

- One-time costs for a redistricting plan. State costs totaling no more than \$1.5 million and county costs in the range of \$1 million.
- Potential reduction in costs for each redistricting effort after 2010, but net impact would depend on decisions by voters.

### ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

#### BACKGROUND

Every ten years, the federal census counts the number of people living in California. The California Constitution requires the Legislature after each census to adjust the boundaries of the districts used to elect public officials. This process is called “redistricting” (or sometimes “reapportionment”). The primary purpose of redistricting is to establish districts which are “reasonably equal” in population. Redistricting affects districts for the state Legislature (Assembly and Senate), Board of Equalization (BOE), and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Typically, redistricting plans are included in legislation and become law after passage of the bill by the Legislature and signature by the Governor. In the past, when the Legislature and Governor have been unable to agree on redistricting plans, the California Supreme Court oversaw the redistricting.

#### PROPOSAL

This measure amends the California Constitution to change the redistricting process for the state Legislature, BOE, and California members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Panel of Retired Judges.** This measure requires that a three-member panel of retired federal and/or state judges (“special masters”) develop redistricting plans. The measure requires that the judges meet a number of criteria, including that they have never held partisan political office. (The nearby box provides more detail on the selection process for the special masters.)

**Requirements of District Boundaries.** The measure adds new requirements regarding the drawing of district boundaries. Among these requirements are:

- For the Legislature and BOE, population differences among districts cannot exceed 1 percent.
- Senate districts must be comprised of two adjacent Assembly districts, and BOE districts must be comprised of ten adjacent Senate districts.
- The plan must minimize the splitting of counties and cities into multiple districts.

In addition, when drawing boundaries, the panel could not consider information related to political party affiliations and other specified matters.

**Schedule.** A panel would be required to develop a redistricting plan for use at the next primary and general elections following the measure’s approval and then following each future federal census.